



**US Army Corps
of Engineers** ®
Walla Walla District
Public Affairs Office

News Release

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Corps soliciting comments on proposed construction at McNary Lock and Dam

Walla Walla, Wash., -- The Walla Walla District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments on a proposal to construct end bay spillway deflectors and the installation of new spillway gate hoists at McNary Lock and Dam on the Columbia River.

The purpose of the deflectors and associated spill pattern changes is to reduce the amount of total dissolved gas produced as river flows are passed through the dam spillway, according to Peter Poolman, chief of the Environmental Compliance Section at Walla Walla District. New spillway gate hoists will be installed to facilitate the change in spill patterns.

"High concentrations of total dissolved gas can injure or kill juvenile and adult salmon, as well as resident fish and other aquatic organisms," said Poolman.

Spillway deflectors are in place on all of the other spillbays at McNary. The deflectors would be constructed on spillbays 1, 2, 21 and 22.

The construction of spillway deflectors on endbays at McNary is included in the actions discussed by National Marine Fisheries Service in the Biological Opinion issued Dec. 21, 2000.

The Corps proposes to begin construction activities in the fall and intends to complete the project by early spring.

Interested parties are invited to provide comments on the draft environmental assessment of the proposed project during the review period that ends May 29. Comments should be submitted no later than that date to be considered. Send comments to: Walla Walla District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Environmental Compliance Branch, Attn: Anneli Aston, 201 N. Third Avenue, Walla Walla, WA 99362.

For more questions or additional information, contact Ms. Aston at (509) 527-7263.

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